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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/234,351	01/20/1999	MARVIN L. WILLIAMS	WILLIAM-2	6210

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EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/234,351

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, MARVIN L.

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Request for Consideration 10/06/2003 to the application filed 01/20/1999.
2. Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent claims.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-27 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Birrell et al.** (U.S. 6,029,164 – filed 09/1996) in view of **Higley** (U.S. 5,790,793 – filed 04/1995).

**As to independent claim 1**, Birrell teaches an electronic mail program (*the email service system 200; col.4, lines 5-39*), a system for establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages received by the e-mail program (*access to the mail services is implemented by extensions to the Web browser ...when displaying retrieved messages ... the URL is passed to the browser; col.11, line 54 – col.12, line 13*), comprising:

- a message parser (*as the message are parsed...after a batch of messages have been parsed; col.7, lines 28-52/ the message can be parsed; col.10, lines 36-48 / new messages received by the mail service system are stored, parsed in the message files; col.11, lines 29-38*) that locates hypertext references in first and second e-mail messages received by the e-mail program and builds hypertext messages containing the hypertext references (*messages are normally displayed...in the HTML format...the first line of a displayed message contains any "hot-links" which the user can click to display the message ... with the HTML formatting; col.11, lines 54-63*); and

- a message organizer (*organizing e-mail messages so that they can readily be located and retrieved; col.4, lines 16-31*) that allows a user to choose to display (*the user can click to display the message; col.11, lines 29-63*) the first and second e-mail messages (*messages; col.11, lines 29-63*) in an order that is based on the hypertext references.

However, Birrell is silent on "associations of each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages."

Higley teaches associations of each of the hypertext references (*item 610, fig.6*) with a sender (*item 601; fig.6*) of the first and second e-mail messages.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Birrell with Higley because it would have provided the enhanced capability for minimizing the data transferred over the network.

**As to dependent claim 2**, Birrell is silent on the message organizer further causes the e-mail program to display for each of the hypertext messages a message field containing the

hypertext references and a from field containing the sender associated with each of the hypertext references.

Higley teaches the message organizer further causes the e-mail program to display for each of the hypertext messages a message field containing the hypertext references and a from field containing the sender associated with each of the hypertext references (*fig. 6*).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Birrell with Higley because it would have provided the capability for displaying an association of each of the hypertext references with a sender.

**As to dependent claim 3**, Birrell teaches the first e-mail message is selected from the group consisting of: a direct e-mail message, and a newsgroup posting (*col. 1, lines 33-38*).

**As to dependent claim 4**, Birrell teaches the hypertext references have associated viewing statuses, the message organizer identically marking viewing statuses of identical ones of the hypertext references (*col. 10, lines 1-48*).

**As to dependent claim 5**, Birrell teaches the message organizer (*organizing e-mail messages so that they can readily be located and retrieved; col. 4, lines 16-31*) orders based on the hypertext references and the sender associated with each of the hypertext references.

However, Birrell does not explicitly teach orders based on the hypertext references and the sender associated with each of the hypertext references.

Higley teaches orders based on the hypertext references and the sender associated with each of the hypertext references (*fig. 6*).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Birrell with Higley because it would have provided the capability for displaying an association of each of the hypertext references with a sender.

**As to dependent claim 6**, Birrell teaches the hypertext references are uniform resource locators (*col.12, lines 1-14*).

**As to dependent claim 7**, Birrell teaches the message organizer allows the user to view referenced resources according to the order (*col.10, lines 1-7*).

**As to dependent claim 8**, Birrell teaches a browser and the message organizer is capable of employing the browser to view information associated with the hypertext references (*col.12, lines 1-67*).

**As to dependent claim 9**, Birrell teaches the browser is capable of paging between pages of information associated with the hypertext references of the message organizer and the browser identically marks viewing statuses of identical ones of the hypertext references (*col.10, lines 1-8 / col.11, lines 54-63*).

**Independent claim 10** is for a method presenting the system of claim 1, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Dependent claims 11-18** include the same limitations as in claims 2-9, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Independent claim 19** is directed to a program for performing the system of claim 1, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale. However, the claim 19 further recites:

- a message receiver;

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- a message transmitter coupled to the message receiver;
- a message composer coupled to the message transmitter;
- a message store coupled to the message composer.

Birrell teaches:

- a message receiver (*the messages were received; col.11, lines 4-38 / the message has been received; col.12, lines 38-44*);
- a message transmitter (*send a message; col.14, lines 50-54*) coupled to the message receiver;
- a message composer (*compose begins a new message; col.14, lines 15-33*) coupled to the message transmitter; and
- a message store (*new messages are stored; col.11, lines 29-38*) coupled to the message composer

As to dependent claims 20-27 include the same limitations as in claims 2-9, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but they are not persuasive.

The broad claim language used continues to read on the references presented in the previous office action.

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Applicant argues that *Birrell does not teach or suggest e-mail program or a system of establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages where a message parser is used to locate hypertext reference.* (Remarks, page 3, first paragraph)

In response, the Examiner contends that Birrell meets the limitations as claimed by Applicant. Birrel teaches relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages (access to the mail services is implemented by extensions to the Web browser ...when displaying retrieved messages ... the URL is passed to the browser; col.11, line 54 – col.12, line 13). Also, Birrell teaches a message parser is used to locate hypertext reference (as the message are parsed...after a batch of messages have been parsed; col.7, lines 28-52/ the message can be parsed; col.10, lines 36-48 /messages are normally displayed...in the HTML format...the first line of a displayed message contains any “hot-links” which the user can click to display the message ... with the HTML formatting; col.11, lines 54-63).

Applicant argues that *Higley does not teach or suggest a method or program that includes locating hypertext reference in first and second e-mail messages received by an e-mail program and building hypertext message containing the hypertext references and associations of each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages.*

(Remarks, page 4, the first paragraph)

In response, the Examiner believes that the combination of Birrel and Higley teaches the limitations as broadly claimed by Applicant. Birrel teaches hypertext reference in first and second e-mail messages received by an e-mail program and building hypertext message containing the hypertext references (messages are normally displayed...in the HTML format...the first line of a displayed message contains any “hot-links” which the user can click to



display the message ... with the HTML formatting; col.11, lines 54-63). Higley teaches associations of each of the hypertext references with a sender of the first and second e-mail messages (Fig.6).

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Smith et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407 issue dated: Feb. 20, 2001

Linden et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,360,254 issue dated: Mar. 19, 2002

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-0092. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-5403 for regular communications and (703) 308-5403 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

**Contact Information:**

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or fax to:

AFTER-FINAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746-7238.  
OFFICIAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 872-9306.  
NON OFFICIAL faxes should be sent to (703) 746-7240.

All OFFICIAL faxes will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. The date of entry will correspond to the actual FAX reception date unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal Holiday within the District of Columbia, in which case the official date of receipt will be the next business day. The application file will be promptly forwarded to the Examiner unless the application file must be sent to another area of the Office, e.g., Finance Division for fee charging, etc.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist). All hand-delivered responses will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. Please do not hand deliver responses directly to the Examiner.

Maikhanh Nguyen  
December 29, 2003

  
JOSEPH H. FEILD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER